



Special Session 3

A New Classification Scheme for Double Stars

Friday, July 18, 2003, Sessions 1-2
Harbourside Meeting Room 4



The Nomenclature Problem

- **New observing and reduction techniques →**
 - New classes of companions (e.g., exoplanets)
 - Overlap of previously distinct classes
 - Improving techniques means *the problem will become worse!*
- **Result is component confusion! One person's AB pair may be another's ab, BA, BC, north/south, or primary/secondary!**



Agenda

An Introduction to the Nomenclature Problem B. Mason

Addressing confusion in double star nomenclature:

The Washington Multiplicity Catalog W. Hartkopf

Working Group Designations and SPS3 H. Dickel & M. Schmitz

Designation of Multiple-star Components A. Tokovinin

Dynamic versus Static Designation D. Pourbaix

Nomenclature in hierarchical systems for which

an inner pair is discovered first C. Scarfe

The Viewpoint from Commission 40 R. Manchester

Nomenclature Scheme In Use By The WGESp and

A Current List of Extrasolar Planets J. Tarter

Questions and Discussion of Possible Resolution



Draft Resolution

IAU Resolution of C Type for Commissions 5 and 26: ON DESIGNATING COMPONENTS OF BINARY/MULTIPLE STAR SYSTEMS

Recognizing

- a. the increasing synergy of techniques for the investigation of stellar companions blurring the traditional distinction between astrometric, spectroscopic, and photometric binary and multiple stars;
- b. the detection of substellar (including planets) as well as stellar components by these techniques and,
- c. the need for a simple, unambiguous, flexible, and computer friendly designation scheme for components of binary and multiple star systems, Noting that future ground and space-based telescope projects have the potential to detect both substellar as well as stellar components in increasingly large numbers,

Recommends that a uniform designation scheme, based on expansion of the WMC system, be developed during the next 3 years to include all types of components and that this be reviewed in time for its adoption to be considered at General Assembly XXVI.